

Mike's Missal

A Newsletter of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Norman, OK



April 2009

Volume 33 Number 4

"WE LIVE AND SHARE THE CELEBRATION OF CHRIST"

The Deadline for the May newsletter is April 15th

St. Michael's Episcopal Church 1601 W. Imhoff Rd. Norman, OK 73072 405-321-8951 stmec@earthlink.net Fax 405-321-0795 www.saint-michaels.net		Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Norman, Oklahoma PERMIT NO. 127

Dates to remember in April

April 3rd Wild Men Dinner

April 4th Clean Up Day

April 4th Altar Guild Meeting

April 5th Palm Sunday

April 9th Maundy Thursday

April 10th Good Friday

April 11th Great Vigil of Easter

April 12th Easter Day

April 16th Vestry

April 17th Pot Luck Dinner w/ Sister Ephrance visiting from Uganda.

April 25th Ladies Day Out



From the Interim-Rectors Desk

Dear Friends,

We are entering the most sacred week of the Christian Year on Palm/Passion Sunday, APRIL 5TH. Palm Sunday combines the drama of a joyful parade and the sorrow of the crucifixion. At our 10:30 worship we will all have a vocal roll to play in the Passion Gospel. This is an excellent time to invite friends to come and experience your church. We will have a Bag Piper and Drummer for Palm Sunday and solemn music for Passion Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th at 7:00p.m. we will remember the two mandates of Christ: Serve others, and participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We begin this night with great joy and hope and end in desolation and sadness as we prepare for Good Friday.

Please sign up for the Prayer Vigil. Can you not meditate and pray for one hour as our Lord prepares for the agony of the cross.

Good Friday Worship will be at 12:10 and 6:30PM.

Our 6:30PM worship will be Stations of the Cross for adults and children.

The Great Vigil of Easter at 8:30 on Saturday evening will be a time for great drama as we light the new fire and celebrate the first Mass of Easter. We will have Holy Baptism and a grand celebration in the Ingathering Space after worship. This is also a great time to invite friends and family to experience your church.

Easter Celebrations will be at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Another excellent time to invite friends, relatives, neighbors. The Parish will have an Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 worship.

May this be a blessed and holy time for you.

Father David+



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A POT-LUCK DINNER
 HONORING:
 SISTER EPHRANCE OF UGANDA
 ON FRIDAY EVENING
 APRIL 17 AT 7PM
 AT SAINT MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 1601 WEST IMHOFF ROAD
 NORMAN, OKLAHOMA**

St. Michael's is hosting the clergy and laity of the Oklahoma City Region who wish to hear of the Medical Mission work being conducted in West Ankole, Uganda. Sister Ephrance a long time friend and missionary of Oklahoma will share her insights as to the present situation in Uganda. (Many of you will remember this important work begun by Dr. Robert Bibens)



Wild Men's Night Out

We invite all "Wild Men" to join us Friday Night, April 3rd for Steak, Potatoes, Salad, Soft drinks & Beer. Only \$12.00: Plus Great Conversation. Please make note of this new date. Sign up at the office window table. First time attendees eat free.

Clean-Up Day

April 4th, we will clean up the grounds around St. Michael's. The fun starts at 9:00 AM. Bring your gloves, rakes, and favorite garden utensils; we will supply the trash bags and water. Come out and help us spruce up the church for Easter!

Food For Friends

Volunteers who served in March were Jeff & Carol Baldwin, Octavia Trueheart, Ann & BG Schumacher, Sara Haraway, Sue Harrington, Anne Million, Sylvia & Art Crucet & Miranda Freeman.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

WHAT: WINE & CHEESE TASTING

WHEN: FRIDAY MAY 15 7 – 9 P.M.

WHERE: MAINSITE GALLERY

WHY??? BENEFIT FOR CLEVELAND COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

APOSTLES BUILD

WHO: WINE & CHEESE PROVIDED BY *THE CELLAR & FORWARD FOODS*

St. Michael's is participating in the APOSTLES BUILD project with Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity. Norman churches are working together to build a house this summer. We will have an opportunity to work several weekends but in order to do that, we have to raise \$2,500. The wine and cheese tasting will be our major fund raiser. We also plan to host Good Samaritan Breakfasts between services **March 29, April 19, and May 10**. Other possible fund raisers are a car show and "sign a stud!" Watch your Sunday bulletin for further information. A building schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the in-gathering space. If you would like to help in any way, contact EAnn Robinson at 360-6346 or by email at eanr@sbcglobal.net.

To my dear St. Michael's family,

I was truly humbled by the celebration put forth as I left our parish community. It was both heartwarming and fun, and much more than I deserved or imagined. The cross is beautiful and I love wearing it, both as jewelry and when vested. And, the oil stock is a blessing and will be well used, I'm sure.

My time with you all, both as a layperson and a Deacon, has been remarkable in its depth of love and service to our Lord. I'm grateful for the opportunities we were able to take advantage of together.

Here is my new address and phone number:

1203 Castle Bay Pl, Columbia, MO 65203

Home phone: 573-441-2555

New email: janetschisser@centurytel.net

Cell phone is still 405-850-9657

I am attending Columbia Hope Episcopal Church, and serving there as Deacon, at least for the time being. It's a startup church and is meeting in a very nice storefront in the center of a strip shopping center just a little over a mile from my home. The launch was held Feb 8th with a very exciting attendance of 156. At the next two Sundays, there were 39, still a solid group. The vision is one of hospitality and service, with a focus on 'being green' and reaching out to the un-churched. The goal is to grow into a program or corporate size church. It's exciting to be invited to participate on the ground floor, so to speak, working alongside the Vicar, Heather McCain. I'm sure the challenges will be very similar to those St. Michael's will face as you try to grow, so we can compare notes along the way.

Again, thank you so much for the incredible send-off. It is still living in my heart and my mind, and the thought of it has helped me get through a couple of tough moments since. May our Lord bless you abundantly. And, may God's peace be upon you all as you proceed with your search for a new rector and grow in God's grace.

Love and Peace,

Deacon Janet

INTRODUCING

Please Welcome our new Deacon

The Rev. Nancy Wakely will be our part time Deacon at St. Michael's. Deacon Nancy is assigned to St. John's and they have graciously agreed to share her ministry with St. Michael's.

Please greet and warmly welcome Nancy and her husband Tom. They are both attorneys in Oklahoma City. Nancy works with the Oklahoma County Court and is contracted to represent parents who do not have the money to hire an attorney when their children are taken into State Custody.

Your Search Committee continues working toward the goal of finding a rector for Saint Michael's. Thanks to your participation in the Survey Questionnaire, the Congregational Meeting, a Coffee Session, and follow-up phone conversations, we have gathered much information. All of the information we gathered has enabled us to focus on "who we are, where we are going and what kind of leadership we need." The search committee is responsible for processing the information.

Analyzing all of the various parish inputs has put the committee in a good position to continue to develop our Parish Profile; a vital part of our search journey. This Parish Profile is an overview of Saint Michael's; a description noting conditions without evaluations or prescriptions: including our members, our skills, our special traditions and our traditional strengths, as well as budgets, plant, program emphasis. In summation, a parish profile is a description of the church which includes its relationship to the community.

By the time you have read this we will once again have met with The Rev. Canon Jose McLoughlin, Canon to the Ordinary. Canon Jose continues to respond to the Search Committee with his guidance and assistance as often we need. Thank all of you for your support. Thank you for your carefully considered responses to our information gathering. Thank you for your sincere conversations with committee members. And thank you for your continued prayers.

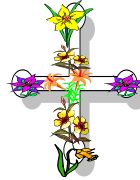
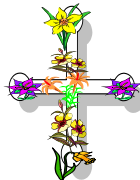
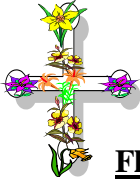
Search Committee

Christian Formation--- Youth

Rice bowls should be returned to the offering plate on Palm Sunday.

Stations of the Cross

Kids will paint the stations of the cross during Sunday school on Palm Sunday. The stations they paint will be used on Good Friday as we remember Christ's journey to the cross. The service is appropriate for all ages and has parts specifically for kids.



Flowering of the Cross on Easter Morning

On Easter morning, the Kids Sunday School classes will meet in the ingathering space to create a cross entirely out of fresh cut flowers! Kids are encouraged to bring any flowers from home to place on the cross along with the ones donated to us by Earl's Flower Shop. At the 10:30 service the kids will carry the flowered cross into the nave and place it in front of the altar. Following the service, kids and grown-ups may take the flowers home.

Easter Egg Hunt



On Easter Sunday at noon, all kids from 5th grade and down are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids can bring their Easter baskets to church with them (though we do have extras for visitors and those who forget). At the time of publication, it is still up in the air whether the eggs will be real dyed eggs or filled plastic ones. Information will be announced and in the bulletins. Regardless, real or plastic, the kids have a good time! If you are willing to volunteer to hide the eggs on Sunday morning, contact Laura Blazek.

Beginning after Easter, we will offer an adult educational opportunity on Thursday evenings at 7p.m. As of publication time the details are still being hammered out. Announcements will be made on Sunday mornings with more details.

Don't forget when planting your garden to plant some for our "Share Your Bounty" program!

Mission Trip Update

Your mission trip team is James Cassidy, Sarah Oxenreider, Patrick Calhoun and Laura Blazek. Thanks to everyone who has purchased stock in our trip! We have raised \$650 of our goal of \$1,800.

Youth Group

During the remainder of Lent, the youth group will continue to meet at 4pm and attend Fr. David's "Jesus in the Movies" series. We won't meet on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. We will resume our regular meeting time of Noon on April 19.

RUMMAGE



Spring Cleaning?? Save it for the Youth Group Rummage Sale

To help raise funds for the mission trip to Lead, SD the youth group will have a rummage sale on Saturday, May 9th from 8-12. We would appreciate donations of items to sell. So get ready for Spring and clean out those closets, garages, attics, or barns and bring your stuff to the church beginning the last week of April. If you need help bringing items or cleaning out your space, the youth group is available to help. Thanks!

From the Senior Warden's Desk

Doing my laundry this morning, I was struck by the diversity of this week's haul: heavy socks and sweaters, on the one hand, tank tops, shorts and capris on the other. How could I have worn such an assortment in one week! The answer, as you all know, is that I live in Oklahoma. Such dramatic changes in the weather are sure signs that spring is at hand. Another sign of the seasons is that we at St .Michael's have started talking about trees again. Having served twice on the vestry, I have been struck by how much people care about this issue: gay bishops and resigned rectors have never caused the strength of feeling that trees do.

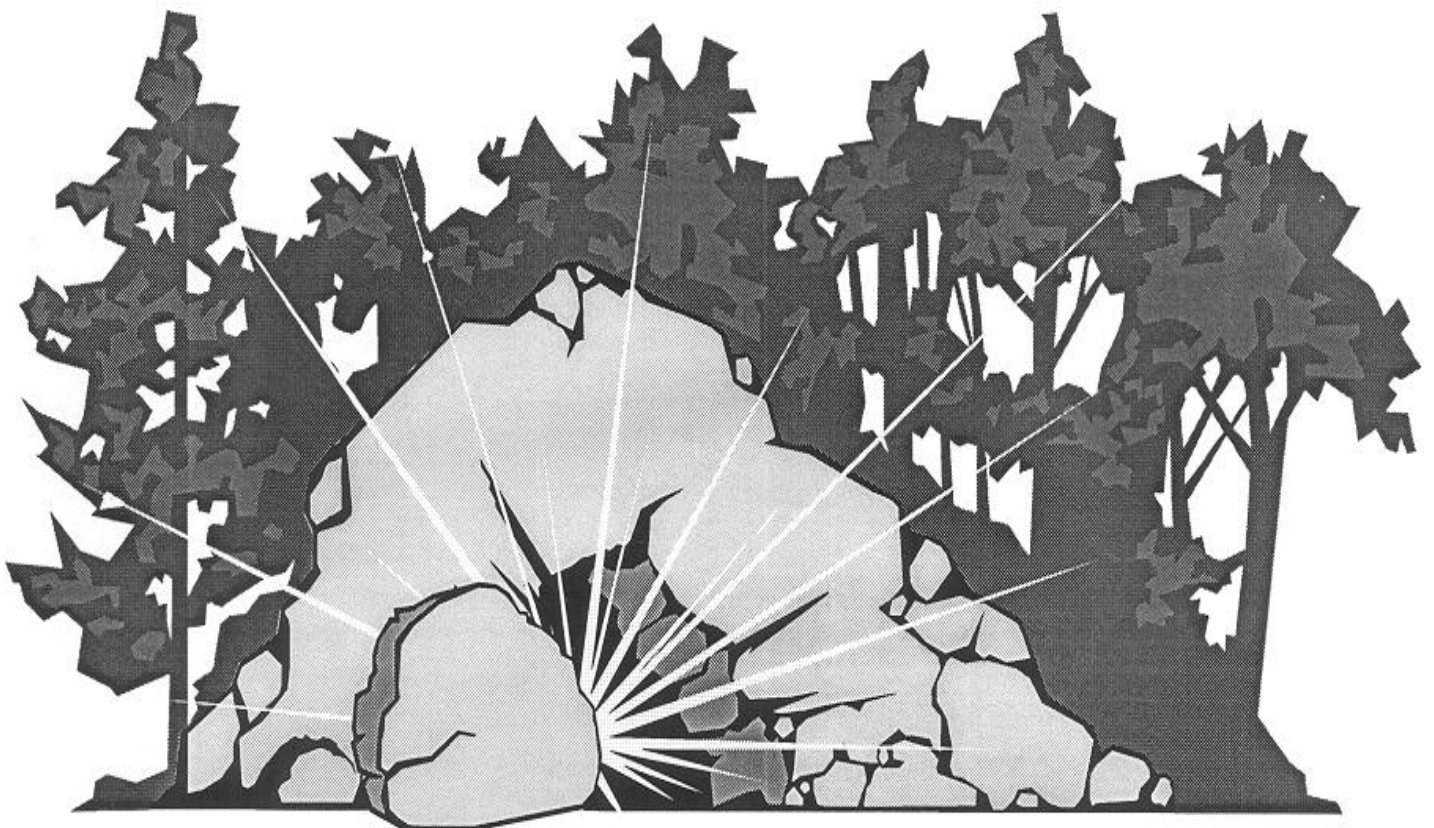
Given the congregation's level of interest, the vestry wants to keep you informed of what we are doing—and why. Last night we voted unanimously to have the dead, dying, and damaged trees removed from our property. I want to assure you that this was NOT a decision made INSTEAD of taking care of the air conditioning problems, but IN ADDITION to. The vestry received a very reasonable bid from Steve Wright on the tree removal, and felt that this decision best protects the beauty and well-being of our church site. It is also important for you to know that we have at present, money in our landscaping account more than sufficient to pay for this removal.

Whether or not we replace those trees, and if so, with what, is a far “thornier” question. The vestry also voted to take advice from Mr. Wright on what kinds of trees or shrubs would best suit our location, and would address our concerns about possible “sound-proofing” as well as esthetics. I know that many of you would prefer that these trees not be replaced at all: not only in the interests of our budget, but also because you want to enhance St Mike's visibility from Hwy 9. Others in the congregation would like our worship services to be protected from the visual and auditory intrusion of the highway. I have no idea, at this point, what the vestry will decide. But I do know that we will be making a careful, considered decision based on our budget, the facts presented to us, and the concerns of our congregation. If you do have an opinion as to whether or not you want these trees replaced, this is your chance to let me, Jeff Baldwin our Junior Warden, and the vestry know. I suspect I won't have to ask twice!

Meanwhile, the air conditioning remains our top priority. I can assure you that the vestry doesn't want to come to an unair-conditioned St Michael's any more than you do. Getting this problem taken care of is, however, a more complicated decision than was tree removal. First of all, the money must come from a different source: the repair and replacement budget. Secondly, it is a far more expensive proposition. Third, we do not have at present enough money in the R&R budget to pay for the air-conditioning. And finally, we know that we can't entirely clean out that the R&R fund, because—as any homeowner knows, there is “always something.” Add all this up, and the vestry must proceed with due deliberation, getting a sufficient number of reasonable bids, and figuring out how we will pay for everything, even if we have to go into debt to do so.

Maintaining the beauty of St Michael's for its own sake, for our sake, and for the sake of those we wish to attract, is an important priority for all of us. Your patience and support will be greatly appreciated.

Judy Lewis
Senior Warden



Lay Ministers for April, 2009

Lock Up Duty – Judy Kellogg & Judy Lewis

8:00 Alms Basin Bearer – George Frazer

April 5, Palm Sunday - Passion Sunday	
8:00 am	Lector- Keith Catto LEM- Bob Franklin & Paula Price
Welcome Team C	Keith Stejskal and Kathaleen Cassidy
Layreaders	Philippians 2:5-11- Judy Lewis Gospel- Mark 14:1-15:47 LEM- James Smith & Kathy Rodrigues
Acolytes	Banner/B- Josh Gray Thurifer- Madeline Witzke Boat/B- Rachel Gray PC/S- Sarah Oxenreider Torch/B- Elizabeth Blazek & Franceska Smith Clergy Cross- Jonathan Smith
	Healing Prayers- Clark Morter Oblationers- Dent Family Nursery Aid- Sarah Oxenreider
April 9, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm	
Welcome Team A	Clark Morter, Betty Eick, Dean and Mary Oliver
Layreaders	Exodus 12:1-14 - Nelson Dent Psalm 116:1, 10-17- Lezlie Christian 1 Corinthians 11:23-26- Tim Phillips Gospel- John 13:1-17, 31b-35 LEM- Lezlie Christian & Tim Phillips
Acolytes	PC/S- James Cassidy
	Oblationers- Rodriguez Family Nursery Aid- Laura Smith
April 10, Good Friday, 12:10 pm 6:30 pm	
Layreaders	Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12- Lezlie Christian Psalm 22- Joel Whitaker Hebrews 10:16-25- James Smith Gospel- John 18:1 – 19:42 LEM- Tim Phillips & Lezlie Christian
Acolytes	PC/S- Lezlie Christian
April 11, Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm	
Welcome Team B	Keith Christian, David Zittel, Suzanne Witzke
Layreaders	Job 14:1-14- Susan Wood Psalm 31:1-4- John Hartley 1 Peter 4:1-8- Lezlie Christian Gospel- Matthew 27:57-66 LEM- Lezlie Christian & Amy Gardner
Acolytes	Paschal Candle- Tim Phillips Thurifer- James Cassidy Boat/B- Emily Gray PC/S- Laura Smith Torch/B- Jonathan & Winston Smith Clergy Cross- Josh Gray
	Oblationers- Kellogg Family Nursery Aid- Madeline Witzke
April 12, Easter Sunday	
8:00 am	Lector- EAnn Robinson LEM- Bob Franklin & Paula Price
Welcome Team C	Keith Stejskal and Kathaleen Cassidy
Layreaders	Acts 10:34-43 – Judy Lewis Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24- Choir 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - Keith Christian Gospel- John 20:1-18 LEM- Amy McGovern & Keith Christian
Acolytes	PC/S – Keith Christian
	Oblationers- Stejskals Family Nursery Aid- Laura Smith
April 19, Easter II	
8:00 am	Lector- Nancy Hancock LEM- Paula Price
Welcome Team A	Clark Morter, Betty Eick, Dean and Mary Oliver
Layreaders	Acts 4:32-35 – Emmie Brown Psalm 133- Choir 1 John 1:1-2:2 - Patrick Calhoun Gospel- John 20:19-31 LEM- Kathy Rodrigues & Clark Morter
Acolytes	PC/S – Kathy Rodrigues
	Healing Prayers- Sue Harrington & Emmie Brown Oblationers- McGovern-Fagg Family Nursery Aid- Madeline Witzke
April 26, Easter III	
8:00 am	Lector- Dan Gibbens LEM- Bob Franklin
Welcome Team B	Keith Christian, David Zittel, Suzanne Witzke
Layreaders	Acts 3:12-19- Keith Christian Psalm 4- Choir 1 John 3:1-7- Carrie Min Gospel- Luke LEM- Lezlie Christian & John Hartley
Acolytes	PC/S – Lezlie Christian
	Healing Prayer- Anne Million Oblationers- Crucet Family Nursery Aid- Sarah Oxenreider

ALTAR FLOWERS – CANDLES – BIRTHDAYS – ANNIVERSARIES

	The Altar Flowers are given by:
Apr. 5	Palms
Apr. 12	Easter Lilies
Apr. 19	Easter Lilies
Apr. 26	Sylvia & Art Crucet in memory of Bruce Crucet & of Christina & Raymond Crucet.
Apr. 26	
	The Sanctuary candles are given by:
Apr. 5	Joel & Janet Whitaker for their many blessings received.
Apr. 12	
Apr. 19	Joel & Janet Whitaker for their many blessings received.
Apr. 26	Amy & Jim Gardner in celebration of Katie's birthday.
	Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month
4/1 - 4/4	1 Molly Mohr, 1 Kathren Dominguez, 3 Joel Whitaker, 3 Meghan Cassidy
4/5 – 4/11	7 Gene Stejskal, 8 Blair Speer, 8 Margaret Smith, 10 Joseph Madden, 11 Ella Stejskal, 11 Melanie Scoggins, 11 Earnie Cass, 12 Jim Johnson, 12 Nelson Dent, 15 Tom Robinson, 18 Judy Kellogg, 18 Aaron Holm
4/12 – 4/18	20 Chris Busch, 22 Alexandra Wright, 25 Sylvia Crucet
4/19 – 4/30	26 Michael Ahedor, 28 Heather Baker, 29 Joshua Blazek, 30 Laura Blazek

Altar Guild Schedule

3/29- 4/11– Paula Price & Judy Mahan

4/12 – 4/25 - Sara Haraway, Tim Phillips, Ann Schumacher and Nelson & LaVetta Dent

4/26 - 5/9 - Suzanne Moore, Margaret Smith & EAnn Robinson

5/10 – 5/23 - Emogene Huslig, Betty Eick, Carol Gibbens & Kathaleen Cassidy